

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

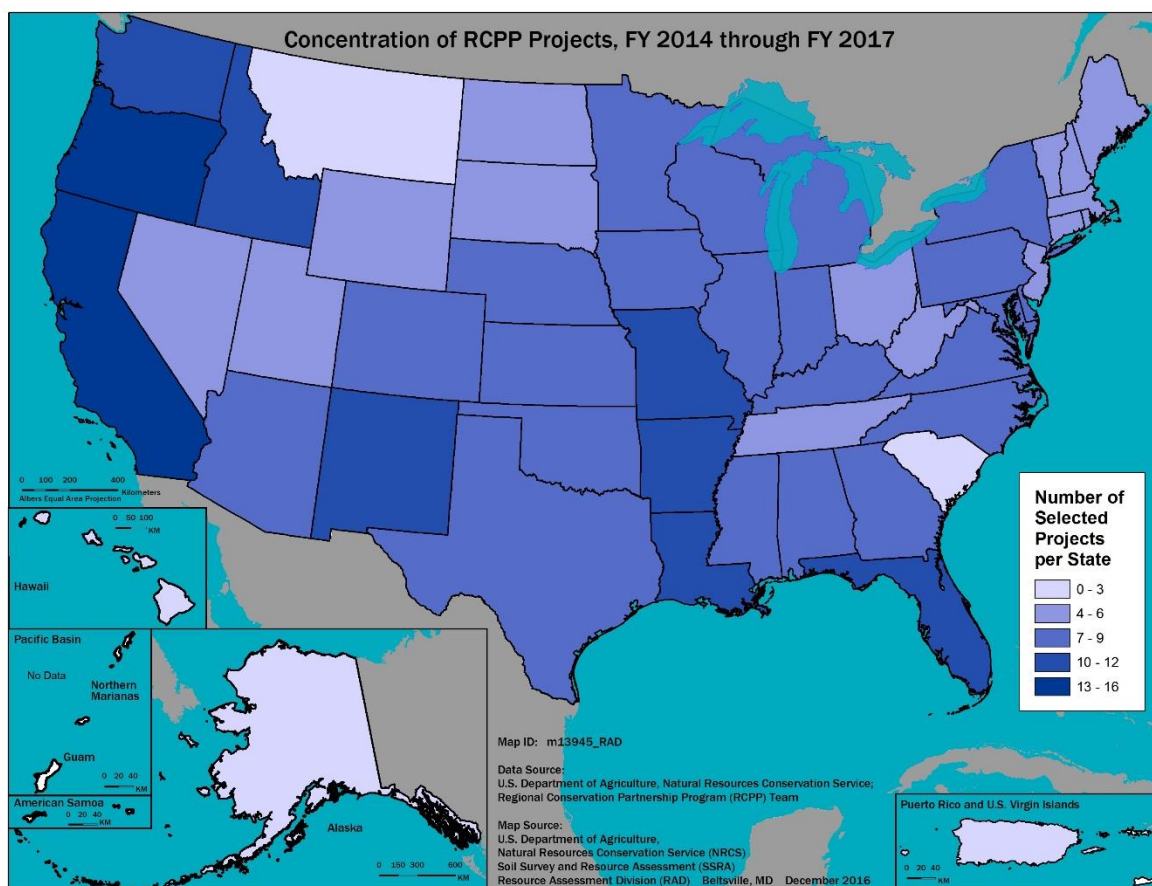
Investing in Idaho



Regional Conservation Partnership Program

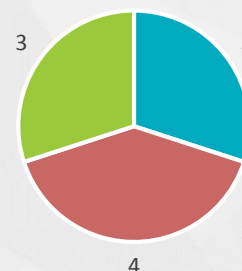
Created by the 2014 Farm Bill, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a partner-driven, locally-led approach to conservation. It offers new opportunities for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to harness innovation, welcome new partners to the conservation mission, and demonstrates the value and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation.

In 2017, NRCS is investing up to \$225 million in 88 projects that impact nearly every state in the nation, including three in Idaho. Since 2014, NRCS has invested more than \$825 million in 286 high-impact projects, bringing together more than 2,000 conservation partners who have invested an additional \$1.4 billion. By 2018, NRCS and partners will have invested at least \$2.4 billion. These projects are leading to cleaner and more abundant water, better soil and air quality, enhance wildlife habitat, more resilient and productive agricultural lands and stronger rural economies.



Idaho Projects to Date

Projects by Resource Concern



10
Projects

\$26.3
million
NRCS Investment

93
Partners

Existing RCPP Projects

Year	Title	Funding Pool	Lead Partner	Number of Partners	NRCS Investment
2016	Farmer's Cooperative Ditch Company Project	State	Farmer's Cooperative Ditch Company	7	\$500,000
2016	Greater Spokane River Watershed Implementation	National	Spokane Conservation District	21	\$7.7 million
2016	High Desert Drought Resilient Ranching	National	Trout Unlimited	17	\$1.3 million
2014/2015	Blackfoot River Idaho Conservation Project	State	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	2	\$500,000
2014/2015	Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Stabilization	State	State of Idaho	10	\$1.1 million
2014/2015	Duck Valley Reservation Irrigation Improvement Project	National	Water Resource Board of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation	1	\$3 million
2014/2015	Palouse River Watershed (WRIA 34) Implementation Partnership	National	Palouse Conservation District	16	\$5.5 million

2017 RCPP Projects

Idaho Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer Stabilization Project

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$5,177,185 (National)

Lead Partner: Idaho Water Resource Board

Number of Initial Partners: 8

Participating States: Idaho (Lead State)

Through the Idaho Eastern Snake River project, the Idaho Water Resource Board and local partners will implement four actions recommended by the State of Idaho to stabilize and recover ground water levels in the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer: ground to surface water conversions; end gun removal/conversion to dryland; fallowing; and flood irrigation enhancements. The project will support agriculture, industry and municipalities on the Eastern Snake Plain and stabilize and recover spring discharges from the aquifer into the Snake River that maintain the minimum stream flows.



Portneuf River Fish Passage and Water Management

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$719,100 (State)

Lead Partner: Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

Number of Initial Partners: 7

Participating States: Idaho (Lead State)

The Portneuf River in southeastern Idaho provides an important habitat for fish, particularly salmonid species, and is a significant source of irrigation water for the Shoshone Bannock Tribes and Fort Hall Irrigation Project. The Portneuf Pump Station supplies irrigation water for approximately 13,300 acres of the Michaud Unit. In order to meet the irrigation deliveries of the Michaud Unit and to prevent pump cavitation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has been annually reconstructing a rock check dam immediately downstream of the pumping station to adjust the water level as necessary. This rock dam is the greatest obstruction to fish movement in the Lower Portneuf River and is a labor-intensive and difficult to manage tool to regulate main channel water flow. Through the fish passage and water management project, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and partners will construct a previously-designed natural-like fish passage channel on the river's right-descending bank and an Obermeyer gate irrigation check structure in the main channel of the river. Fish passage access will normalize feeding patterns and allow access to better habitats, thereby increasing fish survivability rates in the Lower Portneuf River. Also, the ability to better manage river flow will make additional water available for the Tribal Water Bank leasing program, thereby increasing drought resiliency and providing greater regional water security.

Teton Valley Soil, Water and Wildlife

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$825,490 (State)

Lead Partner: Friends of the Teton River

Number of Initial Partners: 4

Participating States: Idaho (Lead State)

A new partnership in the Teton Basin seeks to address growing concerns related to the loss of agriculture in Teton Valley, as well as the related loss of wildlife habitat. The partners will implement market-based solutions to address water quality and quantity issues that are impacting farmers and wildlife populations.